

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AU

SUBJECT: COMPENSATION COSTS IN RAYON STAPLE FIBER INDUSTRY

INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS BUREAU (ILAB) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REQUESTS EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON COMPENSATION COSTS FOR PRODUCTION WORKERS IN THE RAYON STAPLE FIBER INDUSTRY FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH AN ANTI-DUMPING CASE.

ILAB HAS OBTAINED FROM THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS) DATA ON ESTIMATED HOURLY COMPENSATION OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN THE TOTAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRY FOR AUSTRIA. HOWEVER, DATA ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR RAYON STAPLE FIBER WORKERS FROM THE SOURCES USED BY BLS.

BLS ESTIMATES THAT TOTAL COMPENSATION PER HOUR WORKED OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN ALL CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS
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INDUSTRIES IN AUSTRIA WAS 98.05 SHILLINGS IN APRIL 1977. TOTAL HOURLY COMPENSATION INCLUDES ALL DIRECT PAYMENTS MADE TO THE WORKER (PAY FOR TIME WORKED, PAY FOR VACATIONS, HOLIDAYS, AND OTHER LEAVE, ALL BONUSES, AND PAY IN KIND) BEFORE PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OF ANY KIND, PLUS EMPLOYER EXPENDITURES FOR LEGALLY-REQUIRED INSURANCE PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTUAL AND PRIVATE PLANS FOR THE BENEFIT

OF EMPLOYEES. THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON PUBLISHED AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS OF 52.10 SHILLINGS AND AN 88.2 PERCENT ADJUSTMENT FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION NOT INCLUDED IN PUBLISHED EARNINGS. THE AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS ARE FROM THE APRIL AND OCTOBER SURVEY OF WAGE TRENDS IN INDUSTRY CONDUCTED BY THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. THE RATIOS OF ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION TO PUBLISHED EARNINGS ARE BASED ON DATA FROM THE 1975 SURVEY OF LABOR COSTS IN INDUSTRY, ALSO CONDUCTED BY THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. THE RATIOS ARE UPDATED FROM 1975 USING A TREND FROM PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR ALL INDUSTRY CONTAINED IN THE 1975 SURVEY REPORT.

ILAB WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE THE BLS ESTIMATES--PARTICULARLY TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COST OR BASIC WAGE DATA IN NATIONAL CURRENCY FOR RAYON STAPLE FIBER WORKERS--FROM UNPUBLISHED WAGE SURVEY STATISTICS, MANUFACTURERS' REPORTS, OR OTHER SOURCES. ILAB WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON THE EMPLOYMENT COSTS FOR SKILLED CHEMICAL ENGINEERS IN THE RAYON STAPLE FIBER OR TOTAL SYNTHETIC FIBER INDUSTRY. ILAB WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY REPLY. VANCE

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